Every Woman Art

A Zine

By

Members of the Women's Group at

Asylum Link Merseyside

Welcome to our zine

We made this zine together. We are the Women's Group from Asylum Link Merseyside, an organisation in Liverpool offering a warm welcome, friendship and a place to belong.

The Women's Group is a safe, caring and encouraging space for women seeking asylum and refugee women to come to. Here, we can bring our children, meet other ladies, chat, laugh, make art, make jewellery, express ourselves, find out about other women's events, and grow our talents.

We made this zine together with artist and facilitator Jean McEwan and researchers from the University of Liverpool in collaboration with staff and volunteers at Asylum Link Merseyside.

The purpose of the zine is to explore and communicate what making art means to us and also what being part of the Women's Group means to us.

We did this by making collages and talking together. The zine you see contains our artwork, and our messages about this process.
We hope you enjoy it.

With love,
Members of the Women's Group at Asylum Link Merseyside
June 2024

Find out more about Asylum Link Merseyside at: www.asylumlink.org.uk/
Find out more about Jean at www.jeanmcewan.com

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Asylum Link Merseyside

I feel better.

Happy

Be strong
enough
to face the
world
each day

‘The women drew out things that were meaningful to them (from pieces of paper into beautiful images).’

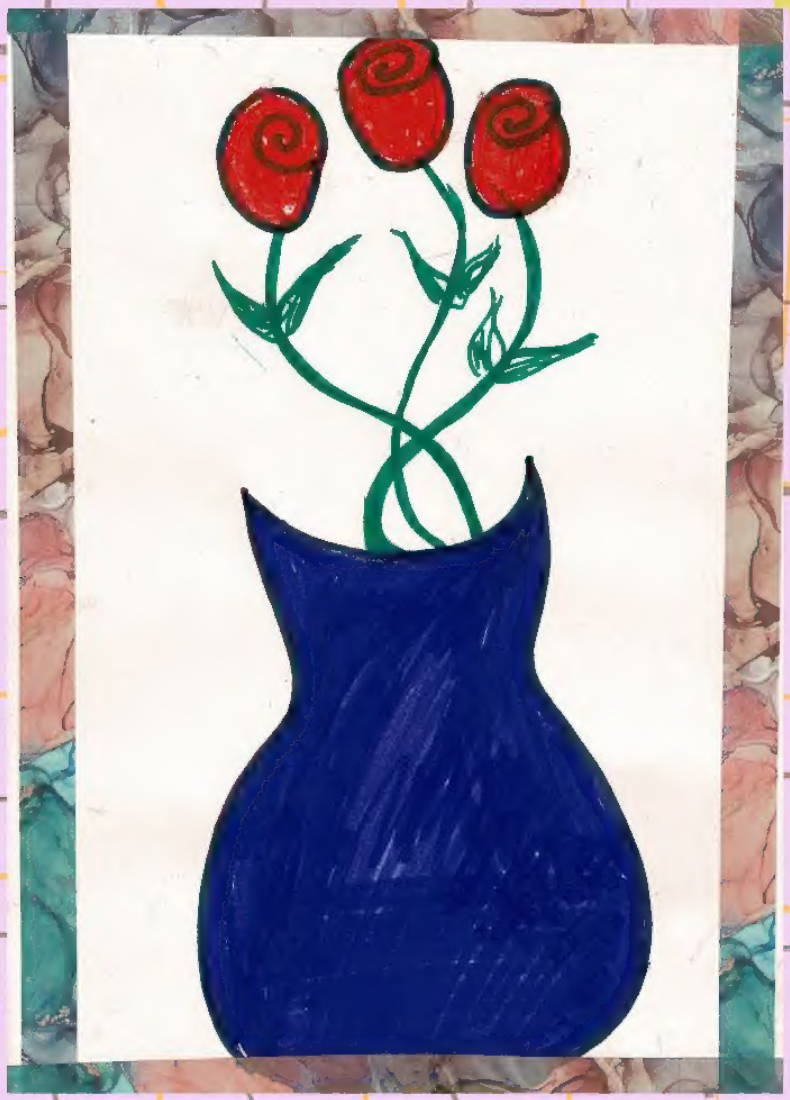
Testimony, occupational therapy student

‘Around the table we sat, women from all over the world, united through art. Together we chatted, laughed, hugged and admired each other’s creations. We shared love and friendship, paper and sequins. Some quiet moments as the women focused on their artwork. Time to breathe and relax, and reflect, maybe. Feeling safe and welcomed in the company of gentle women. The Zine project enabled this opportunity for us to come together and grow....to celebrate our wonderful women’s group here at Asylum Link Merseyside.’

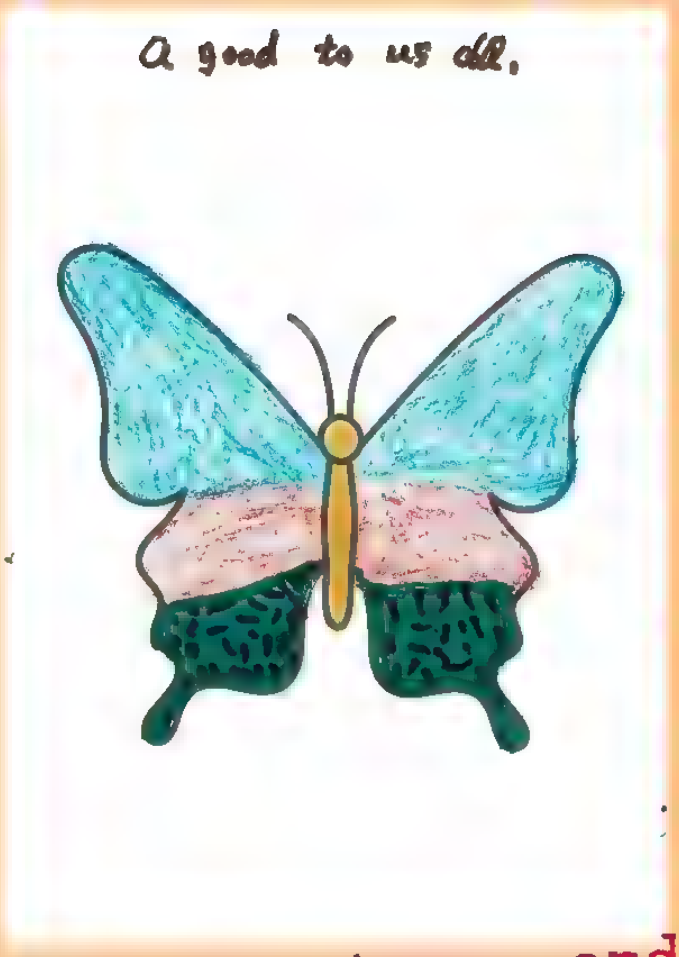
Clare, Women’s Group Facilitator

Love

'Our hearts like flowers'

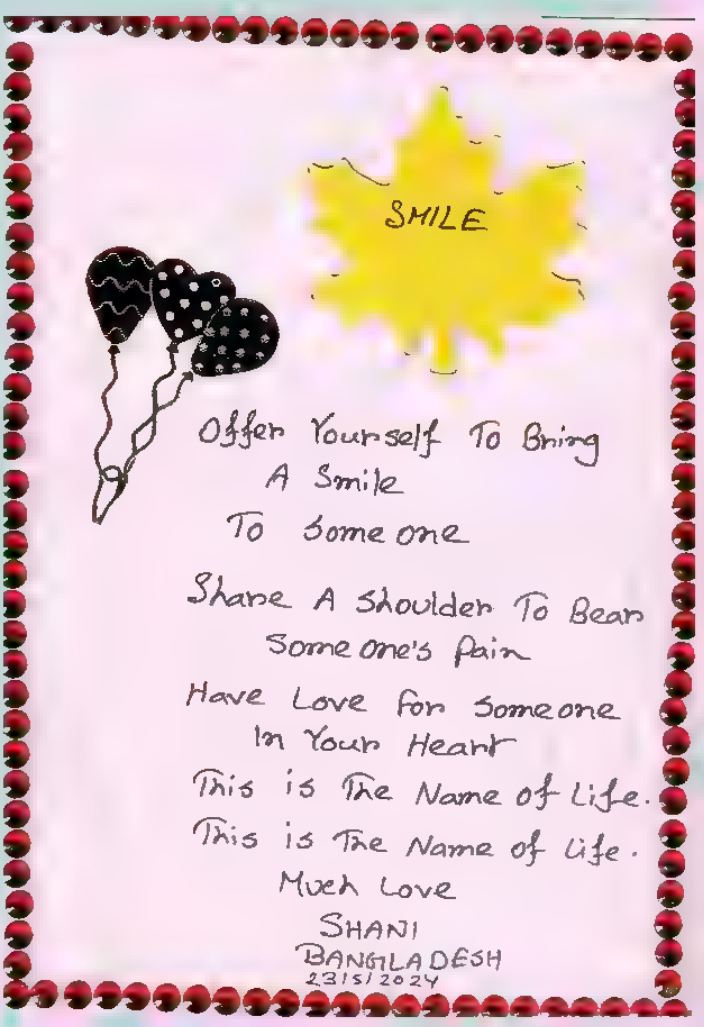


'Creating your own art
at your pace'



'We come here to forget about stress and meet new people'

TWINKLE TWINKLE
LITTLE STAR


SMILE
Offer Yourself To Bring
A Smile
To Someone
Share A Shoulder To Bear
Someone's Pain
Have Love for Someone
In Your Heart
This is The Name of Life.
This is The Name of Life.
Much Love
SHANI
BANGLADESH
23/5/2024

It made us feel happy
and connected to the
community, providing
comfort and also
expressing what is
inside us

I am very happy to
have been blessed
with this day

I never
imagined a day
like this

Only love we
remember it when we
are far from others

You can see things
in a beautiful way

Our heart

like a flower

My heart, any time I'm sad I come here to make art

‘All the women from different cultures, religions and countries, but in one place and become friends in a single heart’

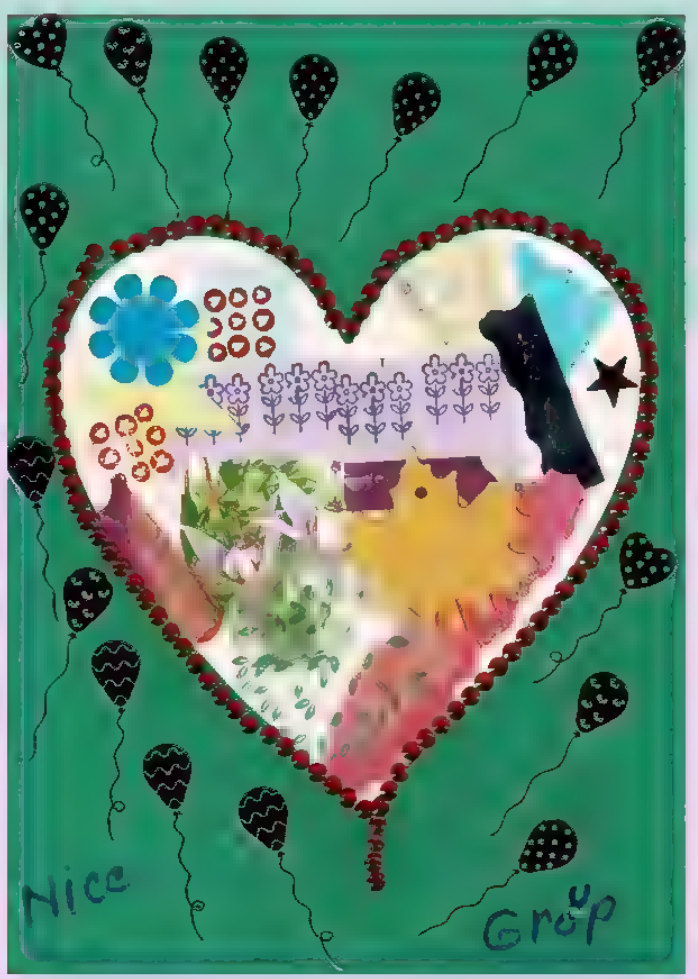
‘Being involved in the zine-making project has been a deeply enriching experience. It allowed me to witness first hand the incredible power of creative expression in fostering a sense of community and providing a therapeutic outlet for female asylum seekers.’

Ayra, occupational therapy student and on research & planning team

END

‘We come here to forget about stress and meet new people’

'The best group of women'



‘Working with our women is such an honour. We all learn from each other. Our room is filled with love.’

(Jean, Women’s Group Facilitator)

Enjoyed.
Mind relaxed.

Go ahead and
never give up

Fly in your life dream like a butterfly

Pink -

'La vie en rose'

- to see the world in pink (idiom in French) - hopeful

Green

- nature's colour, makes me feel alive

I love to be creative, doing art makes me feel very happy, it makes me glow inside!

Kadisha - volunteer

This Little Light of Mine
I'm Gonna Let it Shine.

This Little Light of Mine
I'm Gonna Let it Shine.

Everywhere I Go I'm Gonna
Let it Shine.
Let it Shine
Let it Shine.

Much Love Shani

23/5/2024

LOVELY DAY

I forgot everything. Leave all stress behind Transported to a different world

I am Happy

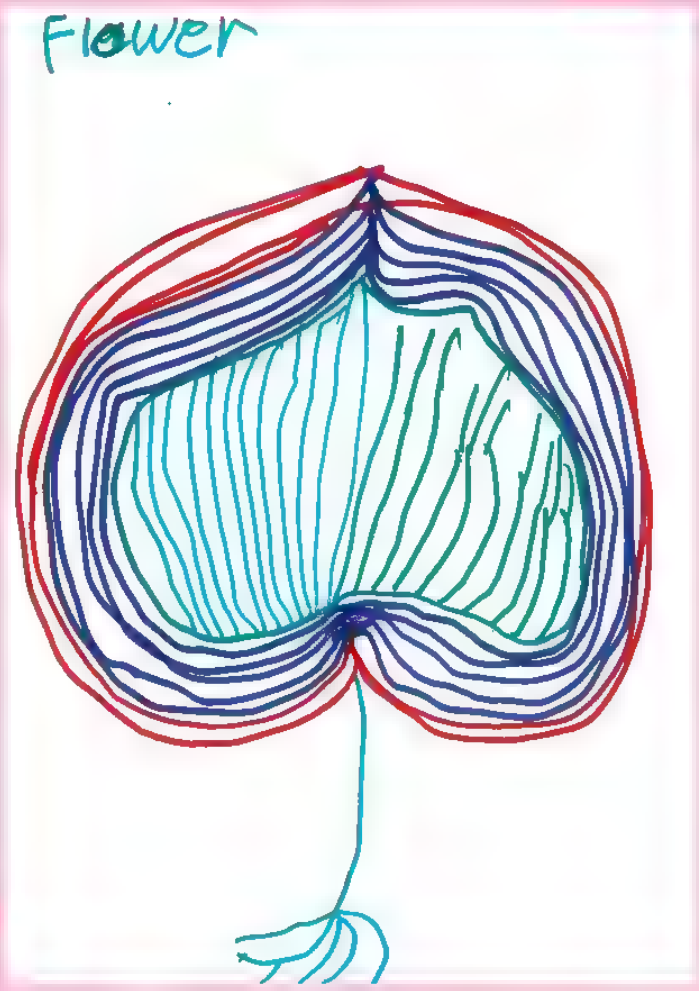
'I am very happy

because I am here with you'

Nice to meet
you all
The best group
of women
Esraa
Abrar
صباح الخير
صباح الخير
اصدقاء
عروب
انهاركم
سعيد
السلام
عليكم
ورحمة
الله

'Without the sun, there is no life to give happiness. This is our Mother Earth and we are all alive. This gives strength to keep me alive and to escape and run from this full world.'

'We get happiness so that is why we come here'



‘Every woman art’

‘The roots are my ancestors, where I come from. The middle tree is dry to represent my life before and so I coloured it grey....

'when I'm [in the women's group] I meet different people who inspire me by their example, and I hear how they deal with their problems and then I manage to deal with my problems too. So that's why I've put different flags as leaves to represent all their countries.’

This research was supported by Research England via the People and Culture Fund.

Research team: Jean McEwan, Artist, in collaboration with Heather Bullen, Ayra Yoosufani, Gayle Brewer, University of Liverpool.

Women's group facilitators supporting this project were: Jean Comerford, Clare Hennessy. Students Testimony Alabi and Nuha Abd Rahim, University of Liverpool, also gave assistance. Photos were taken by Asha Panjwari.

Ewan Roberts, Centre Manager of Asylum Link Merseyside and Seana Roberts, Manager of Merseyside Refugee Support Network enabled the project to take place and facilitated access for the research team.

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